ATMCH Newsletter — Fall 2008

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health

Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service

President's Message

Martha Coulter, DrPH
ATMCH President

Looking back over the past two years of ATMCH I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to serve as your president. These are not easy times for anyone, and support for MCH programs, both teachers and practitioners, is critical. I think we have accomplished a number of our goals this year and clarified the directions that you want us to take in the future. The strategic planning process indicated clearly that our major focus should remain on teaching, including development of new skills and teaching strategies, mentoring and support of faculty, especially junior faculty, and networking and supporting each other. A couple of people also mentioned that we need to be less serious and have more fun. Thank you all for your input, it is much appreciated.

Thanks to Debbie Allen, we completed the development of the case study and our training on its use is scheduled for APHA, with expert training from the Electronic Hallway. We held the "all MCH summit" including MCH leaders from across the country, where we fostered new collaborations, cemented ongoing relationships, and determined our shared priorities. We began the intensive process of comparing and ultimately interweaving the various MCH competencies, including the MCH leadership competencies, the MCH competencies, the ASPH MPH competencies, and the PHF Council on Linkages competencies. We updated our website, added new courses and syllabi, and began work on a white paper for the MCH bureau at HRSA.

Our enhanced membership committee is working on growing our membership. We began an effort to identify the various models that different schools use to house their MCH programs, and we provided focused mentoring to one program. This year we will host a joint membership meeting with the MCH council so that we can all join in the discussions of both groups. If this pilot proves to be a success we can discuss making this a permanent plan.

Thank you again for all of your help and enthusiasm. I look forward to welcoming Russ as our new president!

Martha L Coulter

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2008 ATMCH Membership Meeting
October 26, 2008

2:00-5:30 p.m.
San Diego Convention Center
Meeting Room 7A
San Diego, CA

Congratulations to the New ATMCH Board Mem-

Congratulations to our new ATMCH board members:

- Doug Taren (Arizona) is President-Elect

- Maja Altarac (UAB) is Treasurer

- Kris Risley (UIC) is an at-large board member (*not pictured)*

Thank you is nowhere near sufficient an expression of gratitude for those changing roles or rotating off the board:

- Marti, for a great term as President – we accomplished much! But we still get to work together in your role as Immediate Past President!
- Jose, for his 6-year term as President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President – are you ready yet to serve again?
- Anita, for serving as Treasurer for the past year – thank you for so willingly pinch-hitting, and doing it so well!
- Joan, for many years of service as an at-large board member – we look forward to your return to the board in future years!

Honoring an MCH Hero: Dr. Allan Rosenfield

Dr. Allan Rosenfield, dean emeritus at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and leader in women's health and human rights, built a legacy of inspired leadership in the field of public health. He brought his considerable intellect, passion, courage and persistence to addressing the public health concerns that plague all vulnerable populations around the globe. He died on Sunday, October 12 after being diagnosed in late 2005 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or 'Lou Gehrig's disease.' He was 75 years old.

Dean of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health for 22 years, and an obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Rosenfield is renowned for his work on women's reproductive health and human rights, innovative family planning studies, strategies to address the tragedy of maternal deaths in poor countries, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, both domestically and globally.

His broad vision to improve women's health includes groundbreaking work in areas such as training non-medical personnel in prescribing contraceptives; averting maternal mortality and morbidity from pregnancy-related complications; care and treatment for HIV-infected women and children in resource-limited settings globally.

Please visit http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/sph/news/ar-tribute for more information about this remarkable man and his legacy.

AMCHP 2009 Annual Conference

February 21-25, 2009

Marriot Wardman Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008

www.amchp.org/Events/Pages/AMCHPAnnualConference.aspx

Launching Maternal and Child Health: Opportunities for a New Era

Policy Updates

AMCHP Legislative Alert
Congress Passes Continuing Resolution

On September 27, 2008, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution which will continue funding the federal government through March 6, 2009. While the vast majority of federal programs – including the Title V MCH Block Grant - will continue at Federal Fiscal Year 2008 levels, the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program received an increase of about $1 billion to meet increased caseloads and food costs. Reports indicate that Congress will attempt to finish the Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations bills early in the next Administration at which time AMCHP will advocate for the slightly higher level of Title V funding included in this year's House Appropriations Committee proposal. We will also work with the new Congress and Administration to continue our push for full funding of the MCH Block Grant in the Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations cycle.

In other news from Capitol Hill, the Healthy Start, Community Health Center, and National Health Service Corps programs were all reauthorized this week and bills will be sent to the White House for the President's expected signature. Details on each will be included in the next AMCHP Member Brief.

On Thursday, AMCHP submitted a letter to HHS this week in opposition to the recently promulgated "Provider Conscience" Regulation, available at www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/providerconscience.pdf.

To learn more about AMCHP's recent efforts on behalf of state maternal and child health programs by clicking here or contacting Brent Ewig, Director of Policy and Government Affairs at (202) 266-3041 or bewig@amchp.org.

Awards

Jonathan Kotch Selected for National MCH Award

Jonathan B. Kotch, MD, MPH, has been named winner of the 2008 Martha May Eliot Award by the American Public Health Association. The award honors exceptional achievements in maternal and child health. Dr. Kotch, professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) School of Public Health, will accept the award at the Association's meeting in San Diego this October.

As a renowned scholar in pediatrics and maternal and child health, Dr. Kotch has studied and written about child care, injury prevention for children, and perinatal health, among other topics, and has been a lifelong advocate and activist for children's health and safety. He joined the UNC School of Public Health faculty in 1978 and is director of the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center. Since 1997, he has directed the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants.

"This prestigious award is a testimonial to Jonathan's outstanding achievements in maternal and child health. He richly deserves this recognition, and we are very proud of him," said Herbert Peterson, MD, chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health and professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the School of Medicine.

The School's Department of Maternal and Child Health has a long tradition of faculty members being honored with the Eliot Award, including Drs. Arden Miller (1984), Earl Siegel (1991), and Naomi Morris (1999).

March of Dimes Honors UIC SPH Professor for Leadership in Health Care

Dr. Arden Handler, professor of community health sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health, was honored by the March of Dimes for her contributions to the field of maternal and child health.

Dr. Handler accepted the award at the 11th Annual Jonas Salk Leadership Awards luncheon held at the Galleria Marchetti in Chicago on Wednesday, September 24. Each year, the March of Dimes recognizes a distinguished group of leaders and researchers who've made significant contributions to improving maternal and child health (MCH) in the areas of nursing, medicine, research and public and community health.

Honorees are nominated by their peers and chosen from a committee of past honorees and community leaders.

Ms. Robyn Gabel, ED of Illinois MCH Coalition; Dr. Arden Handler; and Ms. Ellee Pai Hong, NBC 5 Chicago News Anchor

Dr. Handler's expansive research career reflects her long-standing commitment to improving the health of women, children and families, Currently, she is engaged in evaluation research of prenatal care with a number of projects on the West and South sides of Chicago.

Dr. Handler is also an active member of the MCH community, serving on several local, state and national committees, and is a founding and current board member of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, a group that works in partnership with nearly 100 other organizations on advocacy and policy development in the MCH field.

In her role as professor at the UIC School of Public Health, she is the principal investigator and co-director of the MCH Program and the MCH Doctoral Epidemiology Training grant.

Dr. Chilton Receives APHA Young Professional Award

Dr. Mariana Chilton, an assistant professor at the Drexel University School of Public Health, received the Maternal and Child Health Young Professional Award from the American Public Health Association. The Young Professional Award is awarded to someone who has made a significant contribution to the field of maternal and child health through a specific, particularly creative endeavor or through outstanding achievement over a number of years, in the areas of administration, advocacy, clinical care, community service, education or research.

Dr. Chilton's community and research activities have centered on cultural, ethical and historical issues in American Indian and African American Health. With American Indians in Oklahoma, she has explored how physicians' values and American Indian health beliefs, behaviors and practices affect medical decision-making and the experience of illness.

Her newest areas of research include assessing the health impacts of hunger and food insecurity in the Philadelphia area. This community-based research focuses on women and children, nutritional status and human rights. Dr. Chilton is now the principal investigator of the Philadelphia GROW Project. The project provides multidisciplinary services for children with failure to thrive at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and consists of a research endeavor that tracks the wellbeing of infants and toddlers in relation to their caregivers' participation in federal assistance programs.

Dr. Chilton currently teaches Health Behavior and Community Health in the full time Master's of Public Health program, and Health and Human Rights in the Doctoral Program (DrPH). She received her AB from Harvard University, her PhD in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania and her MPH in epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma.

MCH Resources

MCH Workforce Survey

Seeking to better understand and address state Title V MCH/CYSHCN workforce and leadership needs, the Association of MCH Programs and the Association of Teachers of MCH, with support from the MCH Bureau, surveyed these programs between May and August 2008. Both programs in all 59 jurisdictions were requested to complete a web-based survey instrument that would provide a national profile of the state programs' components and functions, and would indicate priority needs and preferred strategies with respect to workforce development. All 50 states and the District of Columbia provided at least one program response; of

these, 49 MCH (96%) and 44 CYSHCN (86%) programs completed the survey. Four of the 8 U.S. territories completed the survey.

Analysis is underway with guidance provided by a working group of representatives from all 3 organizations, and there is much excitement about the usefulness of the information gathered. For example, a look at these preliminary findings identifies critical thinking (e.g., evaluating data and translating to develop policy options and program interventions) and leadership development as the top 2 priority areas for training. Regional and national meetings with skills workshops are most preferred by both CYSHCN and MCH programs as venues for continuing education. Both programs report that blended learning programs incorporating both on-site and distance courses are preferred methods for graduate education.

The working group is preparing two short documents that provide preliminary data for several sections of the survey. These publications will be available at APHA and will be available electronically beginning in November. The agenda of the ATMCH business meeting includes a brief summary presentation and discussion of the survey findings.

Additional analyses, reports, and papers will be generated over the coming year and a number of briefings for relevant audiences are planned. Continued partnerships among state programs, federal agencies, universities and national public health organizations will be continued to digest the data and sort through implications and to devise action plans for addressing workforce challenges uncovered.

Module 4 of the MCH Leadership Skills Development Series: Managing Conflict Effectively

Module 4 videos, discussion guides and case study exercises help learners to examine personal views of and reactions to conflict; examine the effects of emotions on effectiveness at work; enhance communication and negotiation skills; and apply new strategies for analyzing and responding to conflict.

Many resources exist to help programs provide leadership training, but barriers to accessing these resources remain for many MCH professionals, most notably limited time and money resources. The MCH Leadership Skills Development Series (www.jhsph.edu/wchpc/MCHLDS) comprises a set of web-based modules intended for use by groups of colleagues as stand-alone instruments or as part of other professional development activities.

Initial feedback from "the field" indicates that MCH programs are adapting the modules for a variety of settings and uses; in recent examples, LEND trainees have used the MCHLDS to enhance their conflict resolution and negotiation skills, Healthy Start nurses have adapted the modules to focus on infant mortality and the dynamics of coalitions, and other training programs, such as UIC, have integrated MCHLDS videos and discussion questions into their own leadership workshops.

A module on Organizational Change (Module 5) will be available by years end.

MCH - Related Events

Selected MCH Events during the APHA Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 25, 2008:

ATMCH Case Study Training Workshop; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; SDCC Meeting Room 30A

Sunday, October 26, 2008:

ATMCH Greg Alexander Student/Faculty Breakfast; 8-9:30 a.m.; SDCC Meeting Room 15A

ATMCH Membership Meeting; 2-5:30 p.m.; SDCC Meeting Room 7A

APHA MCH Section Membership Meeting; 4-5:30 p.m.; SDCC Meeting Room 7B

Visit http://apha.confex.com/apha/136am/webprogram/MCH.html

for the full list of APHA MCH Section sessions and programs.

Monday, October 27, 2008:

Greg Alexander Outstanding Students Paper Session, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Harvard MCH's 3rd Annual Symposium—December 3, 2008

This year's topic is "Children in Disasters: Being Prepared." The three speakers are:

Benard Dreyer, MD of New York University Medical Center will speak to the ethical issues that arise in disaster preparedness and response pertaining to children from the perspective of 9/11.

Suzanne Gottlieb, Director of Family Initiatives at the MA Department of Public Health, will speak about the many issues that parents of children with special health care needs and practitioners must prepare for in the event of an emergency.

Dr. Karestan Koenen, Assistant Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health will discuss life course issues for children exposed to trauma and relevant interventions.

Dr. Beth Molnar, Assistant Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health will moderate the session. Topics in the two prior symposiums were: High Risk Kids Grown Up and Maternal Depression in MCH settings. The Symposium is a collaboration among MCH training programs, including, the LEND and LEAH programs at Children's Hospital, as well as the Schools of Public Health Program at the Harvard School of Public Health.

If you would like more information, please visit the MCH Concentration website at www.hsph.harvard.edu/mch-concentration/mch-symposium.

Webinar: Understanding Prematurity and its Relation to Birth Defects –December 8, 2008

On Monday, December 8 from 3-4 p.m. (Eastern), the National Birth Defects Prevention Network will host a webinar titled "Understanding Prematurity and its Relation to Birth Defects." Dr. Sonja A. Rasmussen, the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be presenting.

In 2005, over 12 percent of babies were born prematurely and the proportion has been increasing over time. Prematurity is also one of the leading causes of infant mortality. In addition, premature infants have a higher rate of birth defects than infants born at term. Thus, an enhanced understanding of prematurity and its relation to birth defects can inform the collection of accurate and useful data for birth defect surveillance programs.

The goal of the presentation is to describe the relationship between preterm birth and birth defects and the implications for birth defects surveillance.

All presentations during the meeting will be broadcast live via Net Conferencing. Additionally, there will be a limited question/answer period that participants will be able to join. Handouts will be made available prior to as well as during the sessions.

More information about the webinar can be found at www.nbdpn.org/current/resources/PrematurityBD.html.

UIC MCH Training Program's 2nd Annual MCH Leadership Retreat in Spring 2009

In Spring 2009, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health (SPH) will offer *Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Scholarship and Practice*.

Leadership, Legacy, and Community is an exciting professional development retreat that takes place in Chicago. It is designed for junior through senior MCH practitioners and academic scholars including individuals associated with the MCHB-funded training programs (SPHs, LENDs, LEAHs, and PPCs) who have a strong desire to work together and create innovative ways to address MCH issues.

This program is unique in that it is specifically designed and attended by intergenerational, interdisciplinary MCH academic and practice professionals including Generation Y and Xers, baby boomers, and traditionalists. Based on our experience, we have learned that when individuals from these four generations share their generational perspectives when

working together, new ideas, plans, and programs are developed that may be more powerful and influential than what the generations may create in isolation. In addition, a strong sense of community emerges as a result of participating in this retreat. At the conclusion of the 2008 retreat, participants engaged in a heartfelt conversation about racism, classism, and ageism. Real conversations resulted in real connections leading participants to find ways to stay connected and work together.

In 2009, the *Leadership, Legacy, and Community* retreat will once again provide an opportunity for attendees at all stages of their careers to work together as equals and tackle the issues and problems that really matter to MCH professionals. This retreat will rejuvenate, re-energize, and motivate you to return home and engage in innovative work that serves the women, children, and families in your communities with renewed excitement.

Specifically, the 2009 retreat will focus on important MCH issues using practical methods. Sessions will address the evidence-based challenges we face in MCH. Additionally, we will discuss tough issues including racism, ageism, classism, and sexism and how these phenomena affect our ability to improve the health of women, children, and families and what we as a field can do to address these issues. We will also address one or more commonly held beliefs in public health and discuss how these beliefs hold us back or propel us forward. Most importantly, this retreat will be a place where people can come together and discuss the 'elephants in the room' – those issues and concerns that generally do not get addressed but nevertheless continue to affect everything we do in MCH.

The retreat is also committed to the development of leadership capacity among all MCH professionals. Unique sessions for members of each generation and for academics and practitioners will be available to support leadership growth. Finally, we believe in the development of personal leadership; therefore, we will continue to make available professional coaching for attendees who want to explore their career goals and values as well as their vision for their future work in MCH.

Please stay tuned for exact dates for the Spring 2009 Retreat. Please feel free to check the website regularly for updates at www.uic.edu/sph/mch/continuing_education.htm. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email Kris Risley, DrPH at kyrisley@uic.edu. If you have additional questions, please email Kris or contact her at 312.996.2875.

Other News

October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month

Every October, the Spina Bifida Association increases public awareness about Spina Bifida during Spina Bifida Awareness Month. Through public awareness comes understanding and support of our mission to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected. Throughout the year, and especially in October, SBA implements key programs and services to support its mission.

The Spina Bifida Caucus introduced bills to both the House and Senate in recognition of this important month. This effort was supported by in person visits on Capitol Hill by many SBA leaders and virtually through an online advocacy alert (www.spinabifidaassociation.org/site/c.liKWL7PLLrF/b.2663641/k.443F/Advocacy__Public_Policy_Priorities.htm)

Folic Acid Pocket Card – NEW!

Use this quick reference card that fits in the white coat pocket for your outreach to health professionals. This card includes information on folic acid and recurrence prevention. A version for healthcare professionals in English and a version for community educators/promotoras in Spanish are available. To order, visit SBA's Marketplace at www.spinabifidaassociation.org/site/apps/ka/ec/category.asp?c=liKWL7PLLrF&b=2705387&en=lwLRJ7OWKmIVL8NZLgKWLoNaJoLZJhP1JoI1LjPYLeI2KvL.

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We thank you very much for giving of yourself, your time and your expertise to continue to advance knowledge in the field of Maternal and Child Health. Remember, *The Maternal and Child Health Journal* is the primary vehicle for the dissemination and exchange of new scientific knowledge and new ideas in our field. Help us make *The Maternal and Child Health Journal* the premier public health journal!

Many thanks from your Editorial Board!

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The *ATMCH Newsletter* is produced by ASPH staff with submissions from ATMCH members.

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